

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MC-02 /061 W

----- 059630

R 101411Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6897

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RPAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 3132

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, HU, UR, JA

SUBJ: DEFECTION OF SOVIET MIG-25 PILOT

1. TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION IN HUNGARIAN PRESS OR OTHER MEDIA OF DEFECTION OF SOVIET PILOT AND HIS MIG-25 TO JAPAN. MOST HUNGARIANS WHO KNOW ABOUT IT (AND THEY SEEM TO BE FEW) LEARNED OF IT FROM WESTERN RADIO BROADCASTS. CANADIAN CHARGE, WHO RAISED DEFECTION WITH FONOFF DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT V, GOT FOLLOWING REACTION: "PILOT WAS LOST AND, SINCE HE WAS ALMOST OUT OF FUEL, LANDED AT FIRST RECOGNIZABLE AIRFIELD. JAPANESE ARE RETURNING PLANE."

2. SOVIET MILATT (B/GEN OSZADCIJ) IS AWARE OF INCIDENT BUT HAS NOTHING TO SAY. POLISH AND ROMANIAN MILATTS, BOTH WITH BETTER SENSE OF HUMOR, HAVE INQUIRED OF DEFATT WHETHER AMERICANS HAVE FOUND MIG-25 "INTERESTING." CHINESE MILATT INTRIGUED WITH POSSIBILITY SOVIET AIRCRAFT PASSED OVER CHINESE TERRITORY OR TERRITORIAL WATERS EN ROUTE USSR-JAPAN.

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3. AN HUNGARIAN NEWS AGENCY SOURCE (MTI) SUGGESTS THAT WHEN

AND IF OFFICIAL VERSION IS REVEALED IT WILL TAKE LINE THAT
PLANE CRASH-LANDED AND THAT BOTH AIRCRAFT AND PILOT WILL
BE RETURNED.

4. COMMENT: WE DO NOT, OF COURSE, KNOW WHAT LINE
HUNGARIANS WILL EVENTUALLY TAKE ON DEFECTION OF SOVIET
AF OFFICER AND HIS MIG-25. SINCE THERE HAS BEEN NO
REPORTING ON INCIDENT SO FAR IN HUNGARIAN MEDIA, OUR
HUNCH IS THAT THERE WILL BE NONE, GOH BEING CONTENT
TO PERMIT POPULACE TO HEAR ABOUT THIS DEVELOPMENT
"UNOFFICIALLY" FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES.
MUDD

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: MILI, HU, UR, JA
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Type: TE
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